

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A drug package comprising:
a plurality of drug vials containing drugs for delivery to a patient in a drug delivery device; and
a data carrier including drug treatment information for use by the drug delivery apparatus
 2. A drug package according to claim 1, wherein the data carrier is arranged to include at least one of the following items of treatment information:
 - a. the dose of drug to be delivered;
 - b. the identity of the drug which is to be delivered;
 - c. the expiry date of the drug to be delivered; and
 - d. the number of treatments available from the drug package.
 3. A drug package according to claim 1, wherein the drug vials contain drugs adapted for delivery in air inhaled by a patient to their lungs.
 4. A drug package according to claim 3, wherein the drug vials are arranged to be used in conjunction with a drug delivery device for delivering the drug in the inhaled airstream of a patient.
 5. A drug package according to claim 1, wherein the data carrier is an electronic data carrier.
 6. A drug package according to claim 1, wherein the data carrier is arranged to transfer treatment information to a drug delivery apparatus when it is moved to a receptive surface or region of the drug delivery apparatus.
 7. A drug package according to claim 1, wherein the data carrier is arranged to supply drug treatment information to a drug delivery apparatus a number of times corresponding to the number of treatments available from the drug package, or to the number of vials included in the drug package.

16. A drug delivery apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the input is additionally arranged to transmit completed treatment information to the data carrier for recordal.

17. A drug delivery apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the drug delivery apparatus includes an authorization portion which prevents delivery if any of the treatment information indicates that the drug is unsuitable for delivery.

18. A drug delivery apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the drug delivery apparatus is one of a pneumatic nebulizer, a piezo-electric nebulizer and an ultrasonic nebulizer.

19. An electronic data carrier for use with a drug delivery apparatus comprising a memory for holding treatment information concerning the use of the drug delivery apparatus in delivering a specified drug, and an output for transmitting treatment information to the drug delivery apparatus.

20. A drug delivery system comprising:

a drug delivery apparatus for delivering a specified drug; and

an electronic data carrier containing treatment information relating to the specified drug, the data carrier including an output for transmitting treatment information to the drug delivery apparatus before each treatment with the specified drug, whereby the drug delivery apparatus delivers the specified drug in conformity with the treatment information.

21. A method of operating a drug delivery apparatus comprising:

supplying a plurality of vials of a drug for use with the drug delivery apparatus;

supplying a data carrier including treatment information;

transmitting treatment information from the data carrier to the drug delivery apparatus;

placing an amount of the drug from a vial in the drug delivery apparatus; and

delivery the drug in accordance with the treatment information from the data carrier.

22. A drug delivery device comprising:

a delivery portion for delivering a drug to a patient;

a drug use analyser which analyses to amount of a drug delivered over a number of
 5 treatments and which identifies when only a certain proportion of the prescribed drug
 remains; and

a repeat prescription ordering portion which operates to electronically order a
 repeat prescription once the drug use analyser identifies that less than the certain
 proportion of the prescribed drug remains.

23. A drug delivery device according to claim 22, wherein the repeat prescribed ordering
 portion includes a modem which automatically connects to a telephone system to
 elctronically order a repeat prescription.

24. A drug delivery device according to claim 22, wherein the repeat prescription
 ordering portion includes a connection to an electronic network through which the repeat
 prescription is ordered.

25. A drug delivery device according to any one of claims 22, wherein the drug use
 analyser includes a counter for counting the number of drug treatments delivered.

26. A drug delivery device according to claim 25, wherein the drug use analyser
 includes a memory for holding the total number of drug treatments that are possible from
 an existing course of drug treatments.

27. A drug delivery device according to claim 26, wherein the drug use analyser
 includes a comparator which compares the number of drug treatments that are possible
 from the memory with the number of drug treatments delivered from the counter, and
 5 generates a re-order signed when only a certain proportion of the prescribed drug remains.

28. A drug delivery device according to claim 27, wherein the repeat prescription re-
 ordering portion orders a repeat prescription once it received a re-order signed from the
 drug use analyser.

29. A drug delivery device according to any one of claim 22, wherein the drug use analyser includes a data carrier, including drug treatment information including the total number of drug treatments that are possible from an existing course of drug treatments.

30. A drug delivery device according to claim 29, wherein the memory for holding the total number of drug treatments is located in the data carrier.

31. A method of prescribing a drug, comprising:
supplying a patient with a course of a number of drug treatments for administering
 using a drug delivery device;
analysing the use of the drug treatments;
identifying when only a certain proportion of the drug treatments remain; and
electronically ordering a repeat prescription once it has been identified that only a
 certain proportion of the drug treatments remain.

32. A method according to claim 31, further comprising:
 issuing a course of drug treatments or a prescription for the course of treatments in response to the electronic order.

33. A method according to claim 31, wherein the electronic ordering is done via a modem connection to a telephone line.

34. A method according to claim 31, wherein the electronic ordering is done via a connection to an electronic network.

35. A method according to claim 31, wherein the analysing of the use of the drug treatments includes counting the number of drug treatments delivered.

36. A method according to claim 35, wherein the analysing includes the comparing of the number of drug treatments delivered with the total number of treatments supplied.

37. A method according to claim 31, further including the step of generating a re-order signal when it is identified that only a certain proportion of the drug treatments remain.

38. A method according to claim 31, further comprising the supply of a data carrier with the course of a number of drug treatments, the data carrier bearing drug treatment information including the total number of drug treatments that are possible from the

5 existing course of drug treatments.